

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



DK 03-133

RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
of MASSACHUSETTS

The Voice of Retailing

RECEIVED

July 15, 2004

JUL 30 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445, 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Officers

Chairman
Richard Spelman
Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Vice Chairman
Jerome E. Murphy
M. Starnett & Sons
Company, Inc.

Secretary
Joy H. Melzer
The TTX Companies

Treasurer
Howard M. Honigbaum

Executive Staff

President
Jon B. Hurst

V.P., Education &
Workforce Development
Kate Rooney

Membership Director
Catherine L. Doyle

Public Affairs
Director
Kathleen White

General Counsel
Julie Cox

Re: WC Docket 03-133 (Regarding Enhanced Pre-Paid Calling Card Services.)

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts to ask you to support AT&T's position on WC Docket 03-133. AT&T has asked for a declaratory ruling that enhanced pre-paid calling card services are interstate communications subject to interstate, rather than intrastate, access charges. The Retailers Association of Massachusetts is a statewide association of 2,500 merchants of all sizes and types.

From a retailers' perspective this is a cost issue. Many retailers across Massachusetts sell the pre-paid calling cards. Unless the status quo is maintained, the costs of these services to consumers, many of whom are low-income, elderly and students will rise and could threaten the ability of consumers to obtain these low priced pre-paid card services.

Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) like Verizon in Massachusetts want the FCC to change the way these cards are regulated to allow them to charge new, additional, and expensive fees on calls made with pre-paid calling cards. If the FCC allows this change, it will drive up costs for consumers. The FCC should not hike consumer costs on pre-paid calling cards.

Consumers are faced with increasing costs in so many facets of their lives, from health care costs to rising prices for milk, gas and other products. Please do not force them to pay higher prices for using pre-paid calling cards too.

Sincerely,

Jon B. Hurst
President

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner